

Message Text

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42

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 INR-07 SS-15 INRE-00

SAJ-01 SAB-01 L-02 /051 W

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P R 081411Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 2102

INFO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

CNO WASHINGTON DC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0547

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP, BA

SUBJECT : VISIT CINCUSNAVEUR

1. ADMIRAL SHEAR HAD HIGHLY SUBSTANTIVE MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER MAY 8 FOLLOWED BY CALLS ON AMIR AND CROWN PRINCE/
DEFENSE MINISTER.

2. WHILE DISCUSSIONS GENERALLY FOLLOWED FAMILIAR LINES,
SEVERAL ASPECTS WERE SIGNIFICANT:

(A) AMIR EXPRESSED IRRITATION WITH SHAH'S RECENT REMARKS
REPORTED IN "LONDON OBSERVER" CRITICIZING FOREIGN MILITARY
PRESENCE IN GULF, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY BAHRAIN. DISCUSSING
SOVIET PRESENCE AND INTEREST IN AREA, AMIR EXPRESSED GREAT
RESERVATIONS ABOUT RECENT SAUDI AND IRANIAN DISCUSSIONS ON
COOPERATING, ALONG WITH IRAQ, TO PROVIDE FOR SECURITY OF
GULF, NOTING THAT THE MAJOR GULF POWERS OVERESTIMATE THEIR
CAPABILITIES AND MUST REALIZE THEY NEED U.S. HELP IN KEEPING
THE GULF STATE FROM THE SOVIETS.

(B) THE FOREIGN MINISTER EMPHASIZED GOB'S DETERMINATION
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TO RETAIN U.S. NAVY PRESENCE, NOTING THAT WHILE CABINET

APPRECIATED "AMBASSADOR'S" DESIRE TO WRAP UP NEGOTIATIONS QUICKLY, GOB IS DETERMINED TO CONSIDER MATTER CAREFULLY TO ASSURE FINAL OUTCOME MAXIMIZES LONG TERM PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN. AMIR, IN ASIDE TO AMBASSADOR, ASKED WHAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SAID ABOUT MIDDLE EAST FORCE, AND SAID CABINET HAD DISCUSSED MATTER MAY 7. HE UNDERSTOOD ISSUE WAS RESOLVED, AND HE AGREED WITH NEED TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS FORMALLY AND PROMPTLY.

(C) CROWN PRINCE/DEFENSE MINISTER WAS HAPPILY PLAYING CROWN PRINCE ROLE THIS DAY, DISCUSSING HOUSING AND YOUTH AFFAIRS PROBLEMS AND AVOIDING UNAUTHORIZED REQUEST FOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

3. COMMENT: ADMIRAL SHEAR'S VISIT WAS MOST WELCOME BY GOB OFFICIALS CONCERNED AND I REGARD IT AS EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE. OF SPECIAL VALUE WAS ADMIRAL SHEAR'S FIRST-RATE EXPOSITION TO FOREIGN MINISTER OF POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET NAVY PRESENCE WORLDWIDE AND PARTICULARLY IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA AND ON USG DETERMINATION TO RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO SOVIET NAVY PRESENCE. THIS PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTER BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL/MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN AND HENCE SHOULD BE HELPFUL TO U.S.-GOB RELATIONS IN BOTH LONG AND SHORT RUN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAMA00547
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750162-0179
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750570/aaaacplpe.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : VISIT CINCUSNAVEUR
TAGS: OVIP, MILI, BA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006